

Bismarck Tribune.

VOL. 2.

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NO. 17.

The Bismarck Tribune.

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Advertisements inserted under this head, two lines or less, per annum, \$5.00; additional lines at \$2.50.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE—a live western newspaper, published by the Bismarck Tribune Company at \$2.00 per year.

J. W. RAYMOND & CO., Bankers. Interest allowed on time deposits, Exchange bought and sold, &c.

B. EAL & PETERSON, Gun and Lock Smiths.

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MARSHALL & CAMPBELL—Full line of sole work. Boots and Shoes made to order. Gloves.

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F. SLAUGHTER—Physician and Surgeon.

H. R. PORTER—Physician and Surgeon.

LAWYERS.

DELMATER & FLANNERY—Lawyers, Tribune Block, County Attorney's office.

E. A. WILLIAMS—Lawyer, Third St. Deputy U. S. Attorney.

JOHN A. STOYELL—Lawyer, Fourth St.

H. M. DAVIS—Lawyer and City Justice, Third Street.

TOMAS VAN ETEN—Lawyer and U. S. Court Commissioner, Main St.

LIVERY.

CHAS. McCARTY—Livery, Sale and Feed Stable. First Class Rigs.

JOHN OSTLAND—Livery and Feed Stable. Rear of Bailey House.

Bismarck Tribune!

THE

LIVELIEST,

NEWSIEST,

MOST POPULAR

Weekly Paper in the Northwest, will be furnished One Year for

TWO DOLLARS IN ADVANCE,

together with the Tribune's

CUSTER CHROMO,

a magnificent Chromo-Lithograph of this Popular Cavalry Commander. The Chromo alone is worth the money, and was manufactured specially for the Tribune, at an expense of several hundred dollars, by Stridge & Co., Cincinnati, the well-known Chromo Publishers.

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The Tribune will contain not only all of the news of the day, but the latest and most reliable reports concerning the

BLACK HILLS

AND THE WONDERFUL

GOLD DISCOVERIES!

which have recently been made by Custer's Black Hills expedition in that hitherto unknown region. This is important, as Bismarck is the nearest point to the Black Hills, and will be the point where expeditions will start. From Bismarck to the Black Hills there is a direct and well-marked trail, made by the return of Custer's expedition.

The Tribune is the only weekly newspaper in the United States which sent a Special Correspondent with Custer's expedition.

It is the only weekly in the United States which publishes FULL

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES,

giving the LATEST NEWS up to the time of going to press, together with the News of the Week, condensed and put in an

ATTRACTIVE FORM.

The Philadelphia Ledger, in speaking of this Popular Newspaper, says:

"The Bismarck Tribune, a weekly newspaper published at Bismarck, Dakota Territory. It has completed its first year's existence. It is a bright and remarkably well-edited sheet, and would compare not unfavorably with many of the more pretentious journals of the Atlantic coast. It is one of the marvels of American journalism, how such a neatly printed and ably conducted news sheet comes from the midst of a territory which a year ago was inhabited only by Indians and wild animals."

All Postmasters and News Agents are authorized to act as our agents, retaining for their services the usual commission.

Subscriptions sent direct should be addressed to the

BISMARCK TRIBUNE COMPANY.

Bismarck D. C.

The Railway people have indicated the terms on which they can settle this townsite trouble. Their lawyer is satisfied that there is no other way than the way indicated. He is met by people who claim to sympathize with the objects of the Company and who admit that the prices named and the terms indicated are not unreasonable, unjust, or oppressive, but because the Attorney insists in conducting his case in his own way instead of adopting their manner, they are determined to beat him; and boast of their ability and disposition to do so. While this is not the language of the committee, it is the sentiment of at least some of them, or we misunderstood a conversation where misunderstanding seemed impossible. They want the Railroad Company to bear all the expense of contesting; to compromise with Mr. Hackett and everybody else; and then let the people determine whether the R.R. shall have the title, or whether they will keep it, forcing the Company to go to the courts to sustain their rights, if the people refuse to join in the petition. The Railroad people say "Give us the petition which we regard as a necessary preliminary to gaining title, and then we can settle this question," and until this is done they can not do anything. Just so long as this petition is withheld, just so long this question will remain unsettled.

One thing has been developed within the past few days. The people will either petition for townsiting in favor of the railroad company or they will insist on townsiting in their own name; they will fight Mr. Hackett and Proctor as relentlessly and more uncompromisingly than the railway people. When Mr. Hackett did his level best to excite the people against the railway he only added fuel to the flames, and did his part toward robbing him of all chance for a compromise. He will never gain title to one foot of this land except through a compromise, for the law is against him, the facts are against him, the sentiment of the people is against him, and so is every consideration of justice.

It is not pretended that the railway company ask an excessive price for Bismarck lots, or are oppressive in any manner in their terms. Even those of the citizens who are fighting them the hardest say they want the railway company to manage the townsite, but object to the manner of their getting title, alleging that a principle is involved. We should think there was—a great deal of principle and no small amount of interest.

"Nobby" Collins reported on the streets the other day that he had just come from the TRIBUNE office, and that Col. L. said if they could only get Hackett out of the way, the Railway people would "have no trouble in getting rid of the other fellows," meaning other pre-emptors, could be got out of the way, the citizens would have no trouble in townsiting for themselves. Until this is accomplished, the work of their committee will be in vain.

The "Committee" claim to have saved the town fifteen thousand dollars by forcing a revision of the schedule of prices for lots. Now, if they will turn in and secure the settlement of the contest, they will give to every man claiming lots on which improvements have been made, from one to five hundred dollars; the increased value that a settlement of the difficulty will cause—and give employment to mechanics and laboring men, give business to the merchants, and start the town on the road to prosperity. Now the town is nearly lifeless and can only drag along a miserable existence, with no prospect of anything, any better so long as this doubt and uncertainty exists.

Notices are posted warning Mr. White to leave town. This does not scare White nor does it settle the townsite.

Thursday evening of last week five men congregated in one of the Saloons, and laid plans for waylaying Col. Sweet.

The Col. had their names and the result of their planning that evening.

Messrs. Pye and Hobart, of the citizens committee, having fenced in some eighteen lots, at the time of the lot excitement, last winter, which were generally understood to be for Mr. Pye, and were so regarded by the editor, the allusions to lot jumping in last week's TRIBUNE were believed to be justifiable. Whatever Mr. Pye's motives may be, we believe, he was interposing his objections, as some others are surely doing, to promote his own interest, regardless of the rights or interests of others. His friends say we were wholly mistaken in the facts relating to the "jumped lots;" and misunderstand him; that of the lots fenced in he claims but two, and to these none dispute his right. We hope we were misinformed and mistaken.

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E. H. Bly, of Brainerd, is ready to bind himself to erect a fifteen thousand dollar hotel, similar to the Headquarter Hotel

The Bismarck Tribune.

Bismarck, D. T., Nov. 4, 1874.

THE TOWNSITE CONTEST.

For the benefit of outsiders, the following statement of fact in relation to the Bismarck townsite contest is given:

In the Spring of 1872, when the Northern Pacific was about being extended west of the Red River, the agents of the Puget Sound Company, which had entered into a contract with the Railroad Company, under its old management, for the handling of all the townsites along the Northern Pacific Railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, commenced operations, looking to the location of a townsite at the crossing of the Missouri River. Jackman, who had been in the employ of the Railway Company, had examined private plats from which he learned the exact point where they expected to cross the river. Acting on this information he came out here with five men to hold claims, but it so happened that four of the five, including himself, located on what afterwards proved to be railway lands.

The agents of the Puget Sound Company followed them up, and laid out the present site of Bismarck a few days later, at a point 1½ miles from the river and east and south of Jackman's claims. Later in the season, Burleigh City was laid out by Burleigh and others, and Burleigh took the responsibility of grading the track to this point, though the business at the "Crossing," as Bismarck was then called, remained at the present location of the town, and Burleigh City proved to be on railway lands when the survey was made.

After the grade was made to Burleigh City, and the surveys made Jackman's men, excepting Major Woods, abandoned their claims, and Jackman went East, and was gone some nine months. The next spring the grade was changed from Burleigh City to Bismarck, and Jackman, who had succeeded in getting some St. Paul parties interested with him, and secured, as he supposed, a fat Government appointment, returned, and then for the first time Mr. Hackett's claim to the townsite was made public though he had been living here one year. Before this he was understood to have a claim on Apple Creek, on which he made some improvements. About this time the plats had been returned to the Land Office, and Hackett, Pennell, Joy and Tippie made pre-emption filings on the quarter section now occupied by Bismarck.

The county was then unorganized and no townsite filings could be made as there was no Judge through whom to make it, and the Puget Sound Company were not adverse to one of the pre-emptors proving up, hoping through him to obtain title by a short cut instead of waiting for county organization and the subsequent action of the people, though they never for a moment abandoned their townsite programme. It was found, however, that the Register of the Pembina office had been brought into the Land Ring, organized by Jackman, and he would not allow the parties to prove up until after the plats had been filed three months, and then required, we believed, thirty days notice to be given, throwing the contests which up to that time appeared to be wholly between the pre-emptors, late into September. They were to come off on the 25th, 26th and 27th, but the Register of the Land Office purposely absented himself, arriving after the townsite people had left, when he opened the case and took the evidence of Mr. Hackett, who desired to prove up on one quarter section, and that of Mr. Proctor, who desired to prove up on the other, and the Receiver took their money, but repudiated the action of the Register. He dissented from the report of the Register in Mr. Hackett's case, but in the case of Proctor both agreed to report adversely, the Receiver signed the report in blank which the Register afterwards filled up with a favorable report; a report which the Receiver never saw and never knew of until sometime afterwards, and the next day started for Washington to lobby the thing through, claiming to be a special pet of the Secretary of the Interior.

He never returned, and was forced to resign because of his connection with this case; and the Receiver was removed for other causes, so that from the day after the proof was taken in Hackett and Proctor's cases there was no land office before which the matter could be brought until the Bismarck office was opened on the 12th of October, 1874, over a year afterwards.

In the meantime a Bismarck merchant who was familiar with all the facts in the case, made an affidavit to the effect that at the time Messrs. Hackett and Proctor came into the country the land in question was occupied as a townsite and for purposes of trade. This was accompanied by a list of business houses and of improvements published in the Bismarck TRIBUNE, but without thought of this use, and other evidences on which the Commissioner of the General Land Office ordered a rehearing, and plainly pointed out the fact that if this was true the town must be entered under the townsite law.

But the order of the Commissioner was not obeyed and the Bismarck office having been, in the meantime, established, the whole thing was relegated to that office.

The Puget Sound people came here and occupying land not claimed by any one or occupied by any, laid out a townsite, establishing an office, appointed an agent, and commenced the sale of lots, one month before Mr. Hackett, who is the principal contestant, and regarded by Jackman as his special patron, came into the country, and one year, as we believe, before he made any pretensions to claiming the townsite. All of the first settlers applied to their agent for lots, many of them paying money on a contract to give deed as soon as title could be obtained. Members of the townsite committee so applied, and Mr. Proctor bought the lots on which his house now stands, and afterwards gave a Quit Claim Deed of them and his improvements, to Col. Sweet. Applications for lots continued to be made, no one thinking of obtaining them otherwise, until about all laid out were taken, when jumping obtained and several choice lots were jumped, and others rented;—one lot we have in mind rented at \$100 per month.

When the townsite was laid out the land was unsurveyed; then for several months the plats were not filed, and the county was unorganized. When the county was organized an attorney of the adverse interest was appointed Judge of Probate, and not until after he quit the office was any attempt made to secure title under the townsite law, for the reason that an attempt would have been in vain.

To keep their Judge in office, a gigantic fraud was perpetrated, and an election return was brought in, the poll list bearing 263 fictitious names, and the return was counted; this would-be Judge occupying a leading position on the canvassing board.

In January last the present Judge took his seat and he was asked to make the proper filing under the townsite laws, and the people to join in a petition for the disposition of the property. The petition asked that the Judge of Probate deed to those holding contracts from the townsite company, or from Sweet, the lots so contracted, and the residue to Geo. W. Sweet, agent for the Puget Sound Company.

Then "a mice was smelled," and some citizens insisted that Sweet was trying to beat them out of their rights, and also the Puget Sound Company; that he was gobbling everything for himself;—and the Lord only knows what they didn't get into their heads.

Lots were jumped on every hand and frames for buildings, and shanties, sprung up as if by magic. A committee was appointed, two of whom had jumped and fenced in for themselves and friends eighteen lots, and the idea obtained that the citizens owned this thing, and that they could just as well have the lots occupied by them at ten dollars each as to pay the price the Puget Sound Company would ask, while the residue could be sold, and with the proceeds fire engines could be bought, water works constructed, court houses erected, etc.

By some it was held that if the Railroad Company should get the townsite

they would not care, but the hated (and to some extent, justly hated,) Puget Sound Company would get it, or, worse than all, Sweet would pocket the concern, and that was horrible, because Jackman had persistently urged that Sweet was one of them things, a liar, a sneak, a land-grabber, &c., and by two or three, Jackman was esteemed an honorable man.

The Railroad Company was referred to, and the Land Department replied that they knew nothing about Sweet, and the agent and his employees were directed to have nothing to do with the matter, and so the petition fell to the ground.

The Puget Sound Company was, to some extent, a creature of corruption, organized somewhat after the plan of the Credit Mobilier of the Union Pacific. That was organized to build the roads, this to manage the townsites. They were to have such lands as they wanted for townsite purposes at a given price per acre, and expected to gain adjoining lands by the location of script, and by purchase.

This is not the time or place for a chapter on the corruption which prevailed in the management of the N. P. up to the spring of 1872, or on the bad management of the Puget Sound Company. Enough is known in relation to these matters; but the old officers of the N. P. were removed from President down, and a new era commenced. The contract with the Puget Sound Company was broken, and townsites were allowed to spring up where they would, and a movement was started by the N. P. to get possession of the stock of the Puget Sound Company and close it out. Just as this was about to be consummated the panic came, and the bonds which members of the company were to receive for their stock were nearly worthless—the townsite property was not. The railroad people kept to work at it, however, and in August, 1874, succeeded in getting a majority of the stock, and they now control the property of that company, and as a result the prices of Bismarck lots have been put down so low that even the citizen's committee do not object to the prices asked.

Having closed out, practically, the Puget Sound Company, and the Bismarck Land Office being open for business, the attorney of the Northern Pacific was sent here to obtain, if he could, a settlement of the townsite question. This settlement is desired, because the railroad will undoubtedly be pushed west next season, the Territory will be divided, and the Capitol probably located here, which, together with the Black Hills excitement that will follow the opening of the Little Missouri region, which will certainly be accomplished next season, whether the Indian title to the Hills is or is not extinguished, and a great rush to this country of capital and labor seeking investment or employment, not to speak of an extensive settlement of farming lands, will follow.

For their own benefit they desire this settlement, as well as for the benefit of those who have built upon the lots the Puget Sound Company offered for sale. Their attorney has so adjusted prices that they are wholly satisfactory to all classes, and they ask the people to join in a petition that will put them through the Puget Sound Company, whose stock and property they have bought, in possession of their rights, while the people lose nothing. They offer to carry out every contract made by the old townsite company, and where money has not been paid by other parties, to put persons in possession of the property occupied by them; the same as if contracts had been made, and to those who have jumped lots paid for by other parties, they will render all the assistance they can—protecting them from injustice.

When the people join in this petition the Company allege they can settle this difficulty and that they can not do it until then. Until then they can not compromise with other contestants. But with this petition signed they have a clear coast before them and know what they can do and how they can do it.

The citizen's committee, however, while they claim to desire a settlement of the contest and allege that they are willing that the Railroad Company

should get the land, and that they are willing to pay the prices asked for lots, they object to the manner in which it is proposed to gain title. Their attorney, they allege, says this petition is premature; that title must first be obtained and then a petition be presented for disposition. Col. Gray regards the petition as a necessary preliminary, and they declare that so long as he takes that view of the law, and acts on it, so long they will oppose his position, and they declare their ability to defeat him, and in the end force him to accept their position;—terms we do not understand them to offer.

On the one hand we have a ring of land-grabbers who refuse to compromise, fighting the Railroad Company, and by any means within their reach, not hesitating to stoop to fraud or means of revenge, aided, indirectly, by a class of citizens whose intentions are no doubt good, but who seem prejudiced, and whose course is suicidal to the best interests of the town, all opposing with might and main every effort of the Railroad Company to settle the contest.

It is charged that the Main Street business men are bought because they want the contest ended; the TRIBUNE is bought because it has opinions and dares express them; the poor mechanic, who sees clearly where his interests lie and signs the petition, is bought; only the committee is pure, and those who sustain them without stain, no matter what their motives may be.

So far as the TRIBUNE is concerned no man, except the Jackman crowd, has offered a consideration for its supposed influence; none but those of the citizen's committee have threatened opposition because of the course we have chosen to take; and should any member of the Puget Sound Company, or any one else, offer us anything for the work we are supposed to have done in their interest, they would probably meet with the same treatment that another did. While he was not kicked out of the office, he has not called since—he does not know the TRIBUNE people now.

The TRIBUNE is not for sale—neither its opinions, material, or supposed influence. It was established without the aid of one dollar from the people, except as they paid for what they got; without one dollar from the Railroad Company, or a dollar, or the promise of any kind from the Puget Sound Company. We shall fight for Bismarck's best interests even though Bismarckers turn and rend us, and look for our reward as the business of the place is built up.

But we have an interest, and a pecuniary interest, in seeing this thing settled, and every business man, every mechanic, every laboring man here has an interest of a like nature. Even Mr. Hobart, of the citizen's committee, admits that he will not be injured by the settlement proposed, nor will the interests of his friends be injured, but alleges that there is a principle at stake. So the heathen Chinese thinks when he commits hari-kari on the grave of a dead relative. The question is wholly one of dollars and cents, and has no more principle in it than there is in the question whether it is better to buy your groceries at Raymond's or at McLean's.

It is those who are responsible for this prolonged contest who withhold from the company their rights, not those who join in the petition asked, which will settle the question, that should suffer reproach.

Nothing can be lost by signing this petition; much may be gained. Time to Bismarck is money as well as time to individuals.

Elsewhere will be found the official canvass of the vote of Burleigh County, cast at the recent election. It will be seen that 33 votes were cast for Mr. Singiser, present Register, for Register of Deeds, and thirty-three for J. H. Richards, present Deputy Register, for Judge of Probate. The Canvassing Board determined that these persons were elected to the offices named, and will issue them certificates of election. The effect of this movement, unless it falls to the ground, as it probably will, would be to extend the term of Mr. Singiser, as Register, one year, and to displace Mr. Bowen as Judge of Probate, putting Mr. Richards in his stead.

If a vacancy existed, or was supposed to exist, it was the duty of Mr. Richards, as Deputy Register, or Mr. Singiser, as Register, to give the notice required by law, in order that the voters having due notice might govern themselves accordingly. But no notice was given; no nominations were made for these offices; and no tickets were printed having on them candidates named for these positions.

A few votes were cast for them, and the Canvassing Board have given, on these informal ballots, certificates of election.

Mr. Singiser insists that this is no concern of his, and Mr. Richards that he has had no part in it. We believe them, and for their own good name, hope that those disposed to lay the attempted trickery at their door will prove to be mistaken.

No vacancy exists in either of the offices named, for the persons elected at the first general election after the county was organized hold office for a full term of two years. Mr. Singiser was so elected last fall for Register, and Mr. Bowen for Judge of Probate.

Trouble enough was had from the election contests last fall without forcing another fight, with the expense this time thrown on the county, as it will be, should a contest follow. We can not for a moment think that either of the gentlemen named will claim the offices to which they are declared elected by the Canvassing Board.

The location of the depot in a frontier town fixes the centres for trade and determines the value of property. The Railroad Company can not be expected to give away all of the best lots near the depot, as some expect them to do, when by changing their track at an expense of \$2,500, they can locate the depot on grounds wholly their own, and be able to give immediate title to occupants. It sounds well, this talk of reserving a portion of the proceeds from the sale of lots to be used for providing a fire department, etc., but unless title can be obtained there are not likely to be any proceeds. It no doubt pleases Hackett, this talk of giving him a slice of the townsite, and dividing the remainder between the people and the Railroad Company, but the Railroad people, through the Puget Sound Company, believe that their claim is prior to any other. Their lawyers have looked this matter all over and are satisfied that this is the case. They are so well satisfied of it that they are not willing to take title in any other manner. The Railroad Company have submitted their propositions. If the people accept them, that ends the contest; if they do not, that ends the town so far as the north half of Section Four is concerned. And it is only necessary for Col. Gray to report that it is useless to daily longer to effect that result.

It is by remarks such as: "There comes the s—n of a b—h now," applied by Jackman to his opponents, as they meet him on the street, that is relied upon to promote the interests of the "St. Paul land grabbers," and to prevent a settlement of the townsite difficulties. This remark was applied to Col. Sweet as he passed along the street the other day. Similar epithets were applied to Mr. White, and similar epithets have been applied to Col. Gray. Judge Bowen has been denounced by this man as everything vile, and already a war has been inaugurated on the new land officers because they do not promote the schemes of a certain party as the old Register of the Pembina office did. One of the leading citizens was arrested on a trumped-up charge and his examination staved off from day to day, while a threat was held over him to prevent his taking an active interest in the townsite contest. Other threats of persecution have been made, and witnesses have been tampered with.

Nothing definite can be learned from below in relation to the vote cast in the southern part of the district for members of the Legislature, but from present appearances Messrs. Williams, Hackett and Bosworth were elected. McKay has gone below to look after his interests, and is hopeful that the People's ticket may yet win, and Williams has gone to look after the interests of the others.

The Old Barn's Tannery.

By S. P. TAYLOR.

The rooster stalks on the manger's ledge.
He has a tail like a scimitar,
A marshal's plume on his afghan neck,
An admiral's stride on his quarter deck.
He rules the roost and walks the bay,
With a dreadful cold and Turkish way.
Two broadsides fires with his rapid wings—
This sultan proud, of a line of kings—
One glutinous laugh, four blasts of horn,
Five rusty syllables rouse the morn!

The Saxon lambs in their woolen tabs
Are playing school with the a, b, abe:
A, e! I, o! All the cattle spell
Till they make the blantant vowels tell.
And a half-laugh whinney fills the stalls
When down the rack the clover falls.
A dove is waltzing around his mate,
Two chevrons black on his wings of slate,
And showing off with a wooring note
The satin shine of his golden throat—

It is Ovid's "Art of Love" retold
In a blinding fine of blue and gold!
Ah, the buxom girls that helped the boys,
The nobler Helens of humbler Troys—

As they stripped the husks with rustling fold
From eight-rowed corn as yellow as gold,
By the candle-light in pumpkin bowls,
And the gleams that showed fantastic holes

In the quaint old lantern's tattooed tin,
From the hermit glim set up within;
By the rarer light in girlish eyes
As dark as wells, or as blue as skies.

I hear the laugh when the ear is red,
I see the blush with the forfeit paid,
The cedar cakes with the ancient twist,
The cider cups that the girls have kissed,

And I see the fiddler through the dusk
As he twangs the ghost of "Money Musk!"

The boys and girls in a double row
Waltz face to face till the magic bow
Shall whip the tune from the violin,
And the merry pulse of the feet begin.

—Scribner's for September.

Lines to a Very Charming Mrs. Brown.

By ELIA WHIRLER.

It is strange that so charming a creature
Should cause me a thought that can vex!
But whenever I'm thrown in your presence,
I'm always provoked with my sex,
For, watching the play of your features,
And in your sweet eyes looking down,
I'm wishing I was not a woman,
And wanting to be—Mr. Brown.

Some poets have sighed to be angels,
With a crown, and a harp, and a palm,
And to sit on a cloud up in heaven,
Rejoicing in singing a psalm,
But if I could choose my possessions,
I'd take neither harp, palm, or crown,
But the shoes of that fortunate fellow—
And I'd be—oh I'd be Mr. Brown.

Not Rothschild, nor Astor, nor Stewart,
With all their position and pelf,
Could tempt me to change for a moment,
Or be anyone but myself.
But you, with your witching attractions,
With your pouts, and your smile, and your frown,
You make me enr. ged every moment,
Because I am not Mr. Brown.

THE BLACK HILLS.

Another Practical Miner Testifies to There Being Gold in the Black Hills Country....The Beauty and Fertility of the Valleys.

Mr. Matt. Comer, who served as waggon master under command of Capt. Smith, quartermaster in the late Custer expedition, and who is highly recommended by Capt. Smith for the intelligence and faithfulness with which he assisted in the care of the wagon train, states as follows, concerning his observations in the Black Hills country:

It is one of the most beautiful mountain countries he has ever seen. The soil of the valleys is black and is very rich as is evidenced by the rank vegetation. Pure water is abundant. That the climate is mild is shown by the abundance of game and the variety of natural vegetable productions including a great number of species of wild flowers and all the forest trees that are native to Kansas and Nebraska. In the northern ranges the timber is mostly pine, spruce, etc., large timber and looking at a distance as if it would cut up into the best of lumber, but Mr. Comer, who is not himself judge of timber, was told that the pine was of inferior quality and most of it useless for lumbering. He noticed only Norway and pitch pine. Southward from Custer Valley, he says, are forests of hard-wood timber.

That gold was found there in paying quantities and that the indications are such as promise large returns from future prospecting, he knows by personal observation. The first gold was discovered by Ross and McKay in Custer Valley, which descends from what appeared to be an upland prairie, is bordered by such prairie for eight or ten miles, and is a very large valley, gradually narrowing until about fifteen miles below where the camp was pitched it becomes a narrow gulch. Mr. Ross has had large mining experience in Montana and Colorado, and Mr. McKay in California. But Mr. Comer did not rely on them for his knowledge of the gold discovery. He had considerable opportunity to explore and himself washed out gold of which he presented some two dozen "celers" to Capt. Smith. This he found himself. He took part in digging a shaft, when the miners undertook to go to the bed rock, and found gold from the grass roots down, for eight feet, until further progress was stopped by water. Another attempt was made on a bar below to get to the bed rock, but the digging was hard and, for lack of time, the rock could not be reached. In both these shafts and in the surface explorations there was

enough to prove to his mind that the miner (Ross and McKay) did not exaggerate in estimating that the Custer Valley diggings will yield common laborers ten to twelve dollars a day, and will pay experienced miners, provided with best implements and appliances, proportionately more. The gold is what is called "shot" gold, and that is one of the best assurances of success practical miners will ask.

He also saw, in his rides near the wagon train, outcroppings of what he took to be pretty good gold bearing quartz and fair indications of lead.

Mr. Comer's home is at Charleston, Ill., but he has been for the most of nine years employed summers in the army wagon service. He served under Custer in the southern Kansas expedition of 1868, and the Stanley Yellowstone expedition of last year, as well as the Black Hills expedition of this year. His mining experiences have been ample sufficient, he thinks, to justify him to judge of gold prospects, and to know the Custer Valley discoveries were real and as stated. He has washed, for instance, in Grigley's mines in Colorado and Maxwell's mines in New Mexico. He is a young man whose looks and conversation indicate intelligence and good judgment, and command his statements as entitled to respectful consideration.—*St. Paul Dispatch.*

Important Postal Changes.

Complying with requests received from several publishers, we publish a synopsis of the new postal law which goes into effect Jan. 1st, next, unless the law be changed at the coming session of Congress. Under the new system, postage on ordinary articles carried by mail, and which in all cases it will be necessary to prepay, will be as follows:

1. On letters, sealed packages, mail matter wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof-sheets and local or "drop" letters, three cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

2. On local or "drop" letters, two cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

3. On daily papers not over four ounces in weight, thirty-five cents per quarter, (three months); the same six times per week, thirty cents; tri-weekly, fifteen cents; semi-weekly, ten cents. All the above are for one quarter—three months.

4. On monthly magazines weighing not over four ounces the rates per quarter is three cents; the same, over four ounces and not over eight, six cents.

5. On quarterly magazines the postage for the above weight is respectively two and three cents.

6. On pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, magazines and periodicals, handbills, posters, sheet music, unsealed circulars, prospectuses, book manuscripts and proof-sheets, printed cards, maps, lithographs, prints, chromo-lithographs and engravings, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots and scions, the postage is one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof—weight of packages limited to four ounces.

7. On flexible patterns, samples of ores, metals, minerals and merchandise, sample cards, phonographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes, wrappers, unprinted cards, plain and ornamental paper, photographs, and all other articles for which other rates of postage are not prescribed, and which are not by law excluded from the mails, the rate is one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof—weight of package limited to four pounds.

8. On books the postage is one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof—weight of package limited to four pounds.

9. On unsealed circulars, newspapers, and on periodicals not exceeding two ounces in weight, when any of the same are deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, the rate is one cent each.

10. On periodicals exceeding two ounces in weight, when deposited in a letter carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, two cents each is charged.—*American Newspaper Reporter.*

A Life-Like Portrait of Gen. Custer.

We are under obligations to the TRIBUNE Association for a large and life-like lithograph of Gen. Custer. It now adorns our sanctum where it may be seen. We hope, by giving this portrait as a premium, the TRIBUNE may increase its circulation a hundred fold. Indeed, aside from the picture, the paper is worth the subscription price. Colonel Lounsberry yields a pen second to none in the territory, and should be supported in his efforts to make the TRIBUNE all he desires.—*Elk Point Gleaner.*

The Gallant Commander of the Expedition.

We have received from the publishers, the Bismarck TRIBUNE Company, a chromo-lithograph of Gen. Custer, the gallant commander of the Black Hills Expedition. It is a very correct picture of the General, and the enterprising publishers of the TRIBUNE are giving it as a premium to every subscriber to their paper, at \$2.00 a year. The TRIBUNE is one of the spiciest, most newsy and ably conducted papers in Dakota, and is deserving of a wide circulation both at home and abroad.—*Springfield Times.*

THE BOZEMAN EXPEDITION.

The *Agent Courier* says: "Having urged the re-organization of the Yellowstone Expedition at various times," says J. V. Bogert, "and having called for men and material for that purpose, and being in receipt of consequent personal and letter enquiries, I, on account of late developments, feel obliged to announce the illegality and non-advisability of any further present efforts toward the object suggested. The reasons for this conclusion will appear from the following official order, and the assurances made by General Sheridan, as below given. The order reads as follows:

St. Paul, Minnesota, Aug. 10, 1874.

Commanding Officer, Fort Keogh:

It is reported that a mining party is about to leave or has left Bozeman for the Black Hills. If this be true prevent its departure; or if already gone, overtake it, burn its wagons and outfit, disarm the men, arrest the leaders and confine them at your post. If necessary use your whole force in execution of these orders, leaving only a small infantry guard at the post. Acknowledge receipt and report present situation and any action you may take.

(Signed.) O. D. GREENE, A. A. G.

Gen. Sheridan writes thus:

"It is perhaps too late to order any of the infantry from Fort Shaw to the passes about the Gallatin Valley, but next year we shall give direction for such disposition of the troops as will satisfy the people of that section. It is hard to meet all the demands made on our small forces throughout the Territories, but we are always willing to do the best we can. We hope to be able to open up all the country from the western slope of the Black Hills to the Gallatin Valley before a very long period. Next spring I will open the Yellowstone to the mouth of the Big Horn if there is water enough in the channel to afford an ordinary sized Missouri River steamboat to ascend."

P. H. SHERIDAN.

Lt. Gen. U. S. A.

Sherman on the Army.

From the St. Paul Press.

Gen. Sherman is an eloquent writer and a good talker. In the *Army and Navy Journal* for September 26th he prints the concluding chapter of an unpublished memoir, under the head of "The Military Lessons of the War," and it is a most instructive and entertaining contribution to our military literature. Let us give a resume of the most interesting part.

Gen. Sheaman says that preparations for the rebellion ought to have been made "years before" it broke out; for Gen. Scott told him as early as 1850 that "the country was on the eve of civil war" on account of slavery. The market value of the slaves was \$2,500,000,000, and "ignoring the moral side of the question, a cause that engendered so vast a moneyed interest was an adequate cause of anxiety and preparation.

3. On daily papers not over four ounces in weight, thirty-five cents per quarter, (three months); the same six times per week, thirty cents; tri-weekly, fifteen cents; semi-weekly, ten cents. All the above are for one quarter—three months.

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The rest of the article will be of the closest interest to all who have been soldiers, for it chiefly treats of the commissary, quartermaster's and hospital service, and methods for making them more effective.

The whole paper is "soldierly" in the extreme. The following paragraph shows something of the noble spirit that animates the article:

"I believe that every General who has handled armies in battle must recall from his own experience the intensity of thought on some occasion, when by a single command he had given the finishing stroke to some complicated action. To be at the head of a strong column of troops, in the execution of some task that requires brain, is the highest pleasure of war, a grim one and terrible, but which leaves on the mind and memory the strongest mark; to detect the weak point in an enemy's line; to break through with vehemence and thus lead to victory; or to discover some key point and hold it with tenacity; or to do some other distinct act that is afterward recognized as the real cause of success. These all become matters that are never forgotten."

A Good hit on Fred's Geology.

The Black Hills business continues mixed. First, the reporters, correspondents and officers with the Custer expedition gave such incoherent reports and stupidly ignorant accounts of the reported discoveries as to lead an ordinary mortal to suppose that they had been fooled by the "mica in the water;" but now Col. Fred Grant makes a "statement," and says: "The rock in which it is claimed that gold was discovered is of a metamorphic character, in which no precious metals have been found." Slate, limestone and gneiss are classed with metamorphic rocks, and the best diggings in Montana are found on these rocks. In fact mineralogist have deliberately written that metals are never found with the primitive rocks. If Col. Fred Grant can give no better reason for his opinion, he had better give his scientific knowledge a rest. Gold does exist in the Black Hills, metamorphic or no metamorphic; and all miners are interested in knowing is, whether it exists in paying quantities.

—Montana Missoulian.

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